

Barry S. Fagg et al.
Serial No.: 09/986,598

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The rejection of Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,759,380 to Norman has been rendered moot by their cancellation.

In the October 9, 2002 Office Action, Claims 1-4 have been indicated as allowable.

Claims 6-7 and 9-10 were indicated as being allowable in the Office Action if they were rewritten in independent form containing the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is believed that the amendments to Claim 6 and Claim 9, discussed in detail above, have put Claims 6-7 and 9-10 in condition for allowance.

The withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-10 as anticipated by, or alternately, as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,700,726 to Townsend is gratefully acknowledged.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly solicited.

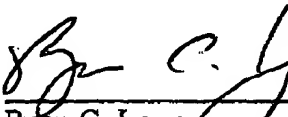
In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 18-1102 (000064-00139).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 15, 2002

BY:


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel Claims 5 and 8, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please amend claims 6 and 9 as follows:

6. (Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the lit end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the filter end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, [The cigarette rod product of claim 5,] wherein the densified region of the lit end is of greater density than that of the filter end and the densities of the densified regions of both the lit and filter ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the lit end and the filter end.

9. (Amended) A cigarette rod product comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper and having first and second ends, the first end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the second end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, [The cigarette rod product of claim 8,] wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the first and second ends.